

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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EUR/RPE - MR. LAMB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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PASS TO JULIUS H. RUBIN, USAEC SCIREP

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TECH, UK

SUBJECT: AUTOMATION FOR SECURITY OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR
MATERIALS

1. SUMMARY: CONFIRMING TELECON LAFLEUR-RUBIN, DEC.
17, 1974, AEC REGULATION INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE
ADVANTAGES IN PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL
(ESPECIALLY PLUTONIUM OR HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM) THAT CAN BE
GAINED FROM AUTOMATION OF REACTOR FUEL FABRICATION PROCESSES.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY MECHANIZED
PLUTONIUM FUEL MANUFACTURING PLANTS IN THE WORLD IS
OPERATED BY BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS, LTD., AT WINDSCALE. AEC
WOULD APPRECIATE IF BRUSSELS OFFICE WOULD LOOK INTO
THIS AND OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THIS AND ANY OTHER
AUTOMATED PROCESSES IN EUROPE THAT MIGHT BE OF ADVANTAGE FOR
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THIS PURPOSE.

2. IT IS NOTED THAT AUTOMATION WOULD TEND TO REDUCE ACCESS OF PEOPLE TO MATERIAL AND MIGHT PROVIDE OTHER BENEFITS, SUCH AS MORE REAL TIME PROCESS MEASUREMENTS, THAT WOULD BE OF POTENTIAL VALUE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OR THEFT DETECTION. DESPITE ECONOMIC AND OTHER INCENTIVES FOR FUEL MANUFACTURERS, AUTOMATION OF FUEL MANUFACTURING IN U.S. IS STILL PIECEMEAL AND NONUNIFORM.

3. IN ADDITION TO AMEMBASSY LONDON, REGULATION CONTACT IN U.K. IS THOMAS RUTHERFORD, NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, THAMES HOUSE SOUTH, MILLBANK LONDON 01, PHONE 211-6881, EXTENSION 1534. WOULD APPRECIATE IF HE WERE KEPT INFORMED OR IF HELPFUL, CALLED ON TO ASSIST. MR. D.N.(NED) L. FRANKLIN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS, LTD., RISLEY, WARRINGTON, LANCASHIRE WA 3-6AS, PHONE WARRINGTON 35953, HAS VISITED AEC SEVERAL TIMES AND OFFERED TO COOPERATE IN SUCH MATTERS IN THE PAST. HE MIGHT BE HELPFUL AND SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED OF YOUR APPROACH TO BNFL.

4. ANY CONTRIBUTION THAT PLUTONIUM PROCESSING AUTOMATION WOULD MAKE TO SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY OBJECTIVES MAY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY OBJECTIVES AND WOULD BE OF DIRECT INTEREST TO THE GENERAL MANAGER'S SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY AND OTHER DIVISIONS. THEREFORE, DIP WILL PROVIDE TO THE DIVISION OF SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY, SIMULTANEOUSLY, ANY INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE DIP FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE REGULATORY OFFICE REGARDING AUTOMATION BY THE BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS LIMITED IN ITS OPERATION AT WINDSCALE OR BY ANY OTHER FOREIGN OPERATORS.
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Message Attributes

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